

Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force
Data Collection and Information Sharing Subcommittee Meeting
September 17, 2012
Convened at 9:00 am

Members present: Chief Tom Pasquarello (co-chair), Amy Farrell (co-chair), Chris Carroll, Susan Goldfarb, Lori Ann Bertram

Members absent: David Carbin, Mike Coelho

Massachusetts Attorneys General Staff Present: Britte McBride, Jeff Webb

Screening tool

The group discussion began with a discussion of the recommendations made by the victim services subcommittee. In general the reviewing subcommittee provided suggestions to improve the clarity of the questions and suggested some additional questions.

Edits were made to the screening protocol in light of the suggestions from the victim subcommittee and additional discussion among the data collection and information sharing subcommittee. The following represents the edited screening tool questions.

Screening Tool for Minors:

1. Are you in school?
 - a. If yes, where do you go to school?
2. Who would you contact in an emergency?
3. What is your age? (alternative: what is your birthdate?)
4. Where do you live? (alternatives: Where do you sleep and eat? What is your address?)
 - a. Who else lives there?
 - a. Can you come and go as you please?
 - b. Have you ever been threatened if you tried to leave?
5. Do you work? (alternative: How do you get money?)
6. Have you ever exchanged sex for food, clothing, shelter or money?
7. Has anyone forced you to do something that you don't want to do?
8. Did someone ever touch you in a way you did not like?
9. Has anyone hurt or tried to hurt you?
10. How are you feeling?
 - a. Do you need any health care (or do you need to see a nurse or a doctor)?
 - b. Do you feel safe?

Screening for Adults.

1. Describe where you live (alternative: Are you from the area? Where do you sleep and eat? What is the address?)
 - a. Who else lives there?
 - b. Do you feel that you can leave if you want? Do you have to ask permission to leave?
 - c. Have you ever been threatened if you tried to leave?
2. Does anyone stop you from getting food, water, sleep or medical care?

3. What is your age? (Alternative: what is your birthdate?) *Question used to screen that not a minor*
4. Do you work? (Alternative: Do you get paid for what you do?)
 - a. How do you get to and from work?
 - b. How did you find your job?
 - c. Do you owe anyone money because they helped you find your job?
 - d. Do you ever feel like you cannot leave your job?
5. Have you ever exchanged sex for anything of value such as shelter, food, clothing or money?
6. Have your identification or travel documents been taken from you?
7. Have you ever been physically harmed in any way or seen anyone else harmed?
8. Has anyone ever threatened you or your family?
9. Has anyone ever threatened you with calling immigration authorities or the police?
10. Is anyone making you do anything that you do not want to do?
11. How are you feeling?
 - a. Do you need any medical assistance?
 - b. Do you feel safe?

In addition to the feedback from the victim services subcommittee, Chief Pasquarello has submitted the preliminary questions to some law enforcement leaders for comment. The group agreed that we would revise the screening instruments to determine whether the additions and edits are making the tool unwieldy. The co-chairs and staff of the attorney general's office will discuss steps to finalize the wording of the proposed screening instrument.

Protocol

The group began by revisiting the idea of creating a protocol for use by a variety of different users. In the August meeting we identified six main categories of users: 1) law enforcement (included patrol officers and detectives), 2) other emergency first responders such as EMT and fire department, 3) health care workers/hospital workers, 4) victim witness advocates and victim service providers, 5) other social service providers such as social workers, child welfare, street workers, school officials, 6) licensing regulatory agents. Some members of the group thought that it would be simpler to employ a protocol for minors that was divided into two simple categories: mandated reporters and a second protocol for non-mandated reporters rather than create protocols specific to each user group. Some of the group members suggested that there were still differences in the guidance that users would need even if groups of users were all mandated reporters. The mandated reporter/non-mandated reporter distinction would not be useful for deciding the steps in the protocol for adults. It was decided that we would start the next meeting by working through a protocol for minors using the mandated reporter platform. The group will not be developing guidance for user groups who are not mandated reporters for minors such as members of the public.

Some members of the group raised additional concerns about how to protect the confidentiality of information from the screening interviews and the types of guidance that would be given to potential victims about their confidentiality.

The next meeting date is October 15th from 9:00-10:30 at Northeastern University. The November meeting will be held on the 19th from 9:00 – 10:30 at the Division of Professional Licensure.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.